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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT ROUTING SLIP INITIAL DATE ACTION INFO TO: Χ 1 DCI 2 DDCI 3 EXDIR X (added 871112) 4 D/ICS 5 DDI 6 DDA 7 DDO χ 8 DDS&T 9 Chm/NIC 10 GC 11 |IG 12 Compt 13 D/OLL 14 D/PAO 15 D/PERS 16 VC/NIC 17 CZACIS/DI X 18 D/SOVA/D X NIO/USSR X χ D/OSWR SUSPENSE Remarks **Executive Secretary** 22 OCT 86

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 10, 1986

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86- 4891 X

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
THE CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
THE DIRECTOR, ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT:

Ratification of Frieting Treaties Limiting Nuclear Testing (U)

The President has approved the attached National Security Decision Directive (NSDD-2.7) setting forth United States policy on nuclear testing, providing guidance on ratification of existing treaties limiting nuclear testing, and setting forth future steps to be taken. (C

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

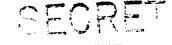
John M. Poindexter

Attachment: NSDD-247 (S)

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System II 90707

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 10, 1986

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION DIRECTIVE NUMBER 247



Ratification of Existing Treaties Limiting Nuclear Testing (U)

United States policy on nuclear testing limitations is clear:

First, our highest arms control priority in the area of nuclear testing has been and remains to seek verification improvements to the existing Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty (PNET). I have made it clear that, once the Soviets agree to improvements which would permit effective verification, I am prepared to move forward on ratification of these two treation (U)

Second, as I have made clear to General Secretary Gorbachev, once our verification concern have been satisfied and the treaties have been ratified, and in association with a program to reduce and ultimately eliminate all nuclear weapons, we are prepared to engage in discussions on ways to implement a step-by-step parallel program of limiting and ultimately ending nuclear testing. (U)

Third, the United States remains committed to the ultimate goal of the total elmination nuclear testing, a goal endorsed by every U.S. President since President Eisenhower. While a comprehensive test ban remains a long-term objective of the United Staes, however, such a ban must be viewed in the context of a time when we do not need to depend on nuclear deterrence to ensure international security and stability, and when we have achieved broad, deep, and verification capabilities, expanded confidence-building measures, and greater balance in conventional forces. (U)

In order to make progress toward our coals, induce the Soviet Union to negotiate verification improvements, and ensure the necessary Congressional consensus for our objectives, I have decided to take two new steps:

First, I informed General Secretary Gorbachev in Reykjavik that, that if the Soviet Union will, prior to the initiation of ratification proceedings in the Senate next year, agree to

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essential TTBT/PNET verification procedures which could be submitted to the Senate for its consideration in the form of a protocol or other appropriate codicil. I will, as a first order of business for the 100th congress, request the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification of the TTB and PNE treaties. However, if the Soviet Union fails to agree to the required package of verification improvements prior to the convening of the 100th Congress. I will still seek Senate advice and consent, but with an appropriate reservation to the treaties that would ensure they would not take effect until I am able to certify they are effectively table. (C)

Second, I informed the General Secretary that, once our TTBT/PNET verification concerns have been satisfied and the treaties have been ratified, I will propose that the United States and the Soviet Union immediately engage in negotiations on ways to implement a step-by-step parallel program -- in association with a program to reduce and ultimately eliminate all nuclear weapons -- of limiting and ultimately ending nuclear testing. Pending additional and the program is additional and the program might take or the forum in which such discussions might be held. (S)

In order to implement this recision. I request the Secretary of State to prepare, and submit for my approval not later than one week prior to the convening of an 100th Congress, an appropriate message seeking Senate advice and consent to ratification. The message should include a processed reservation, to be prepared by the Secretaries of Defense and Energy jointly, that would ensure ratification would not take effect until I am able to certify the treaties are effectively verifiable. (C)

Ronald Ragon

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